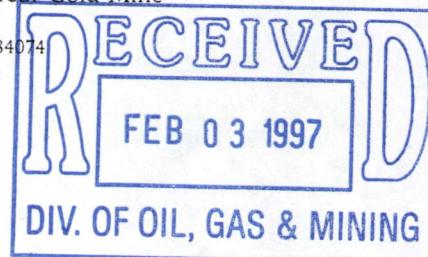




CLAYTON L. LANDA
Vice President & General Manager

BARRICK RESOURCES (USA) INC. Tel: (801) 268-4447
Barrick Mercur Gold Mine Fax: (801) 266-4296
P.O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074



January 28, 1997

Ms. Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director - Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Re: M/045/017
Mercur Mine
Tooele County

Dear Ms. Wright:

Pursuant to recent conversations with Mr. Munson and Mr. Hedberg of your staff, please accept this correspondence requesting a change in status from our June 1996 **Notice of Intention to Revise Mining and Reclamation Plan** under R613-004-119, to a **Notice of Intention to Amend Mining and Reclamation Plan** under R613-004-118. Subsequent to the June 1996 submittal, Barrick and the Division have completed many discussions, changes, and refinements to the Notice. This effort has culminated in the assessment that a Revision is unnecessary for the Proposed action.

A careful comparison of the proposed permitting action and the Division's May 21, 1991, Policy for Defining Minerals Program Amendments and Revisions under rules R613-004-118 and R613-004-119 has been completed. Results indicate that at a minimum 3 of the 4 categories necessary to consider the action an amendment can be reasonably demonstrated by Barrick. These categories include:

Category 2: The recalculated surety will not exceed 25 percent of the current surety or \$50,000. The December 20, 1996, revised surety calculation (attached) is \$8,784,185. The current surety amount is \$8,800,000.

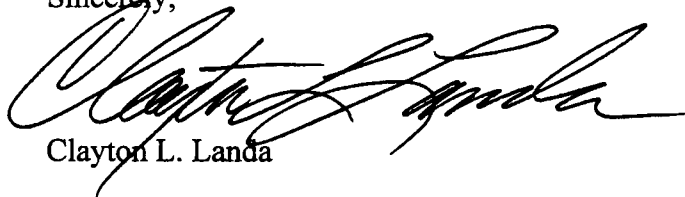
Category 3: The degree of change in environmental impacts are negligible when compared to the existing level of disturbance under the current permit. The proposed action simply refines and clarifies minor disturbance activity designations and boundaries.

Category 4: Barrick believes that the impacts are not significant enough to warrant the need for public comment at this time. Upon submittal of the final closure plan for the Mercur Mine in late 1998 or early 1999, Barrick will encourage public comment on all aspects of the closure plan and post-closure mining land use.

Barrick will continue to work closely with the Division staff to complete the timely approval of the requested Amendment. Upon completion of your review of this request, please contact me to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clayton L. Landa".

Clayton L. Landa

CLL/sw

cc: T. Munson (UDOGM)
W. Hedberg (UDOGM)
G. M. Eurick
D. P. Beatty
C. L. Olsen
L. B. Jenkins (PBL)
D. R. Bird (PBL)